

FACT SHEET

JUNE 2001

DTSC Approves Soil Removal to Begin in June for Back Yards Next to the Union Rail Yard



SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

***It is DTSC's
mission to protect
public health and
the environment
from harmful
exposure
to hazardous
substances.***

State of California



**California
Environmental
Protection Agency**



Introduction

The California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) wishes to inform you of the plans for excavation of soil in the back yards at the end of Weller and Bidwell Ways as well as the active switching yard of the Union Pacific Rail Yard (Rail Yard). DTSC has approved the Excavation Work Plan for the Debris Fill Remediation (Excavation Plan) and Union Pacific Rail Road (Union Pacific) will use the Excavation Plan to remove soil contaminated with lead from the back yards (*see map on page 2 for location*). The Union Pacific Rail Yard is about 94 acres, consisting of an inactive eastern portion and an active rail corridor and switching area in the western portion. The Rail Yard lies directly north of Sutterville Road between 24th Street and Sacramento City College on the south side of the city of Sacramento.

Begun in April 2001, the arsenic contaminated soil removal is almost completed. The Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT) began the removal in the corridor that RT will use for the southern extension of the light rail. Now RT awaits the results of the confirmation sampling that will tell DTSC and RT if the arsenic has been removed to below action levels for the light rail corridor. See the April 2001 DTSC fact sheet for more details.

This fact sheet covers the Excavation Plan, the plans for back yard restoration, as well as the sampling both in the Rail Yard and in the back yards at the Weller and Bidwell Ways. Also, this fact sheet gives you contact numbers for further information and the locations of the various repositories to review a copy of the Excavation Plan.

History of the Initial Discovery and Sampling

As part of the Regional Transit light rail extension work, sampling showed elevated levels of lead in debris found at the western boundary of the Rail Yard in December. Subsequent sampling showed elevated levels of lead in four of five back yards directly bordering the Rail Yard to the west. Also, sampling showed elevated levels of lead with the debris in several areas inside the Regional Transit corridor along the western boundary of the Rail Yard.

(Cont. on page 2)

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

Excavation of Lead Debris Soil Map

Legend

- Approximate Extent of Lead Contaminated Soil Removal
- Truck Route for Removal of Lead Contaminated Soil to the Rail Yard Staging Area

0 70
Scale in Feet

Approx. Extent of Soil Removal

Bidwell Way

Weller Way

Freepoint Blvd

The Excavation Plan

Before approving this Plan, DTSC has met with the affected residents as well as elected officials and local neighborhood association representatives. DTSC has made changes in the Plan based on comments made by affected residents and others.

DTSC has delayed the removal because Union Pacific has been talking with affected neighbors about what kind of access agreements they wish to sign. That process may still delay portions of this soil removal.

Using this Plan, Union Pacific will remove all the debris and the associated contamination from the four back yards at the end of Weller and Bidwell Ways. Union Pacific will start excavating lead contaminated soil in the back yards and has already removed the debris there. Once the back yard

Mailing List

If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail, and you would like to receive future mailings on the Rail Yard, please take a moment to fill out the information below and send it to: **Nathan Schumacher, DTSC Sacramento Office, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ *State:* _____ *Zip:* _____

DTSC mailing lists are solely for the purpose of keeping people informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records and, if requested, may be subject to release.

contamination has been removed, clean fill dirt will replace the removed soil. Union Pacific will then provide the necessary landscapers and landscape material to restore the back yards back to as close to their former state as is possible.

During the course of the excavation from the back yards, Union Pacific will have air monitoring equipment at four points between the soil to be removed and residents. This equipment will collect samples to show the amount of suspended particles in the air as well as the amount of lead. Throughout the earth moving operations, water tank trucks with hoses will be used to wet the soil to suppress dust. Also, the operation will be at a reduced speed with the smallest available backhoe. If dust is observed, or measured by the particulate sampling equipment, excavation will be halted and additional dust control measures will be undertaken.

Union Pacific has contracted with a certified tree expert to assist them in the removal. The tree expert will provide guidance to Union Pacific on whether trees in the affected back yards can be preserved or not during the excavation. Also, Union Pacific has received a grading permit and a tree removal permit from the city of Sacramento.

During the planning period, arrangements were made with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District for the necessary clearances and procedures to dig around the power pole that is placed in the middle

of the area where debris needs to be removed. Also, Union Pacific and their contractors have met with the City of Sacramento Public Works Department to agree on the procedure to use in digging around the storm water collection pipe that runs through the debris area.

The Excavation Work Plan has been prepared as a contingency under the measures outlined in the Regional Transit corridor Slag Removal Action Work plan. Regional Transit has followed this Work plan as they have worked on building the Light Rail extension through the Rail Yard. As part of this Work plan, DTSC required Regional Transit to sample soil as a routine part of their excavations at the Rail Yard.

DTSC has also analyzed the Excavation Work plan for environmental impacts and has decided that it is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). That decision is based on the need to do the removal quickly. That way, this potential threat to human health will be ended.

DTSC has decided that the remedial goals listed in the 1995 Remedial Action Plan (1995 RAP) for the Rail Yard apply to metal contamination found in the Regional Transit corridor and in the residential back yards. After the soil is removed, Union Pacific will take samples to confirm that the excavation has removed the lead below the levels as established in the 1995 RAP. ■

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Sacramento, CA 95826

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Information Repositories and Contacts

If you wish to review any of the reports on the earlier work done at the Rail Yard, please visit any of the following repositories:

*Belle Cooledge Library
Reference Librarian
5600 South Land Park Drive
Sacramento, CA 95822
(916) 264-2700*

*Sacramento City College Library
Reference Desk
3835 Freeport Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95822
(916) 558-2461*

*Sacramento City Clerk
915 I Street, Room 304
Sacramento, CA 95814*

The full administrative record is available for public review at the DTSC Sacramento Office.

If you have questions about the Excavation Work Plan or the sampling results, please feel free to contact:

*Nathan Schumacher
Public Participation Specialist
(916) 255-3650*

or

*Fernando Amador
Project Manager
(916) 255-3737
Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95827*

**If you are a member of the media, please contact:
Lisa Kunz, Public Information Office, (916) 327-6104.**

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals: TDD users can obtain additional information about the Union Pacific Rail Yard and assorted removals by using the California State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) and asking to reach Nathan Schumacher at (916) 255-3650.